

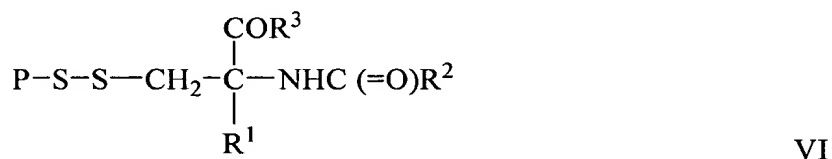
Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-8 (cancelled).

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for prolonging blood and tissue retention of a sulfhydrylgroup containing compound selected from the group consisting of peptides, proteins and oligonucleotides into mammalian cells, said method comprising:

forming from the sulfhydryl-containing compound a compound of general formula VI



in which P is selected from the group consisting of peptides, proteins and oligonucleotides; R¹ is hydrogen, lower alkyl or aryl; R² is selected from the group consisting of a lipid-containing moiety, --CH₂CH₂CH(NH₂)CO₂H and -CH₂CH₂CH(NHCO--lipid)CO--lipid; and R³ is -OH, a lipid-containing moiety or an amino acid chain comprising one or 2 amino acids and terminating in -CO₂H or -COR²; and

administering the compound of general formula VI to the cells;

wherein said lipid is a hydrophobic substituent consisting of 4 to 26 carbon atoms and said lipid together with the attached carbonyl is a fatty acid acyl group.

Claim 10 (original): A method according to claim 9, wherein R^1 is hydrogen, R^2 is a lipid group and R^3 is -OH.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 9, wherein R^1 is hydrogen, R^2 is $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{NH}_2)\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ or $-\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{CH}(\text{NHCO-lipid})\text{CO-lipid}$ and R^3 is $-\text{NHCH}_2\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ or $-\text{NHCH}_2\text{CO-lipid}$ in which at least one of R^2 and R^3 comprises a lipid group.

Claims 12-22 (cancelled).